

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-59 are pending in the Application

Claims 1-59 are restricted by the Examiner.

Claims 35-42 have been elected without prejudice and with traverse.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application.

1. Election of Invention to be Examined

The Examiner requires restriction to one of Group I (Claims 1-19 and 43-59), Group II (Claims 20-34) and Group III (Claims 35-42). In response thereto, Applicant confirms provisionally electing, without prejudice and with traverse, Group III (Claims 35-42), for prosecution on the merits. Applicant further reserves the right to prosecute Claims 1-34 and 43-59 in this or a subsequent application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction for at least the following reason. MPEP § 803 states that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” As such Applicant respectfully submits that examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden and, therefore, the examiner should examine it on the merits even if it claims independent and distinct inventions.

2. Conclusion

Wherefore, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas J. McWilliams', written over a horizontal line.

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